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CORRECTION TO: NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday January 13, 1977 CG NIDC 77-010C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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[redacted] A sampling of local Czechoslovak opinion carried out by the US and West German embassies suggests that the human rights declaration has evoked little public interest. Some have referred to it as an exercise in "intellectual gamesmanship."

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[redacted] As the post-Helsinki European security conference--set for June in Belgrade--draws closer, the intellectuals probably calculate that the government will find it more difficult to act against them. They may thus increase their efforts to force the Husak regime to adopt a more liberal line on the human rights issue.

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[redacted] For the moment, the government seems determined to continue its intimidation of the dissidents in the hope that they will back away from open confrontation with the government. An authoritative article in the Czechoslovak party daily on Tuesday took a tough, uncompromising line against the dissidents. The article came close to warning the group that further provocations will not be tolerated during the six months leading up to the Belgrade conference. [redacted]

FRANCE: Balance-of-Payments Deficit

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[redacted] The French government has become increasingly concerned over its current balance-of-payments deficit, which totaled roughly \$6 billion in 1976 and will probably remain high this year.

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[redacted] French industrialists recently have pressed the government for measures to stem the rising tide of imports from countries with low labor costs--a tide they say is steadily undermining their competitiveness both at home and abroad. Several French corporations have already warned the government that without adequate protection from foreign competition they will have to lay off workers in large numbers.

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[redacted] Prime Minister Barre has so far rejected calls for protectionist trade measures, opting instead for more general austerity measures to deal with France's trade imbalance. The government does not want to jeopardize the continuing multi-lateral trade negotiations, which it hopes can be completed by the end of the year. [redacted]

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